

IGARSS'95

KIDSAT

JoBea Way

Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology
Mail Stop 300-233, 4800 Oak Grove Dr., Pasadena, CA 91109
818-354-8225, Fax: 818-354-9476, Email: way@lor.jpl.nasa.gov

Elizabeth Jones Stork

Institute for the Advancement of Learning, The Johns Hopkins University

Sally Ride

California space Institute, University of California - San Diego

An instrument on the Space Shuttle turns and points, taking a picture of the Earth **below**. The instrument is being guided not by astronauts in space or scientists in NASA's mission control center, but by a student in an urban school engaged in the study of ancient trade routes. Even more compelling is that the instrument was designed by students and is dedicated to the advancement of learning.

Young people are fascinated with space, their own environment and technology. KidSat is designed to capitalize on the human instinct to learn and explore. Imagine the excitement of learning through interaction with a real space mission and control of real cameras and instruments operating hundreds of miles above Earth. Learning has a new purpose. It is compelling and inspiring. That is the vision of KidSat; to become a catalyst for education by bringing the resources of NASA, the excitement of space and an astronaut's view of our planet to young people across America.

There are several key elements of KidSat. First, the instruments are designed, built, and operated by young people. Because some students built the instruments, many young people may want to understand the instruments and use the data. The instruments will be mounted on the piloted space platforms - Shuttle, Mir and Space Station - to attract every young person to this program through their interest in astronauts. We hope to maintain young people's interest in the program by allowing them to explore and understand Earth thus capitalizing on an existing interest in their environment and their future. We have developed a phased evolutionary program which starts small and includes iteration and evaluation in the development of the curriculum to insure KidSat truly does impact learning. Once we are certain we have developed a solid program, we plan to make it available to every teacher and young person.

KidSat gives young people a piece of the space **program**. It acknowledges their **value** as young explorers and citizens of the future. KidSat is designed to capture the imagination of students and motivate them to **learn** by engaging them in an exciting, hands-on project that contributes materially to their education.

Preferred topic: New Education Session, Nahid Khazenie - chairman